

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 EA-11 ARA-16 HEW-08 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 COME-00 AGR-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 STR-08 /140 R

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EUR/WE:EBEIGEL(DRAFT)

EUR/CAN:EBROWN(DRAFT)

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ARA/CAR:JWSIMMS(DRAFT)

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E.O. 11652:ADS, DECLAS 12/31/73

TAGS:ETRD,FR, CA, JA, CH, MX, CS, DR, EC, TS, KS

SUBJECT:MUSHROOMS

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1. IN A SEPTEMBER 25, 1973 PRESS RELEASE, THE FOOD AND DRUG

ADMINISTRATION ORDERED AN EXAMINATION OF ALL CANNED MUSHROOMS STILL IN WAREHOUSE. IN RECENT MONTHS, FIVE INSTANCES OF TYPE-B BOTULINUM CONTAMINATION FORCED THE EFFECTED PROCESSORS TO RECALL SHIPMENTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FDA DECIDED TO GO FORWARD WITH A BLANKET EXAMINATION OF ALL WAREHOUSE STOCKS. IMPORTED MUSHROOMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE FDA INSPECTION PROGRAM WHICH IS EXPECTED TO REQUIRE TWO MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

2. IN PREVIOUS INSTANCES OF BOTULINUM CONTAMINATION AFFECTING OTHER CANNED FOODS, DOMESTIC SALES DECLINED SHARPLY AFTER THE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT EXAMINATION MAKES IT LIKELY THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE WITH CANNED MUSHROOMS.

3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF THE FDA INSPECTION PROGRAM. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT BEING RESTRICTED.

4. FOR PEKING: WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH APPROPRIATE PRC AUTHORITIES. FYI: U.S. IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS FROM PRC DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1973 AMOUNTED TO 94 THOUSAND POUNDS WORTH 46.6 THOUSAND DOLLARS. END FYI.

5. A COPY OF THE FDA ANNOUNCEMENT BEING POUCHED. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD INDUSTRY, FOOD INSPECTION, MUSHROOMS, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE191610
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LICOHEN:CLJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973098/aaaaafwk.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USHROOMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: ETRD, FR, XX, FDA
To: PARIS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005